(328)

10 February 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR: Technical Services Staff

FROM : Chief, Operations Staff, O/SI

SUBJECT :

1. Attached there is an OO-3 report concerning LSD, for your retention, which you may not have seen. Paragraph 7 has some interesting implications and I wonder whether you will want to follow-up on them or we should take action. When you have looked it over, could you phone me about this?

Attachment:
As stated

Distribution:
Orig & 1 - Addressee
1 - Subject
1 - Chrono
1 - Daily Reading

(Ops note: cy of OO-3 also sent to AD/SI on 10 Feb. 54 for Info. and return for Ops file)

(328)

TRANSMITTAL SLI.

10 Feb 1951
(Date)

TO: (1) DJ.

BUILDING (2) Cops of (illegible)

LOCK NO.

REMARKS

- This is an interesting report, particularly para 7. See sending a copy to with the suggestion that he may want to follow up.

FROM:

BUILDING | ROOM NO. | EXTENSION

FORM NO. 36-8
SEP 1948

(3)

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

JECT Conversation with

E ACQUIRED SOURCE) ——

ACQUIRED SOURCE) Early Dec 53

(OF INFO.) Early Dec 53

REPORT NO. 00-B-72014

RESPONSIVE TO	
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SUPP. TO REPORT NO.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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On 8 Dec 53 I had dinner in New York City with [redacted] who is now, I believe, the US representative of [redacted] pharmaceutical house. During the course of the evening, [redacted] drank a fair amount of bourbon and led the conversation. He has a curious and tiresome tendency to lard all that he has to say to me with flattery. On this occasion he constantly referred to a fairly recent article of mine which appeared in a scientific periodical and the impact of this article on pharmacological thinking in Europe. I do not know what the point of this flattery was; probably nothing more than the fact that [redacted] is a rather small individual who has made his way in the world by getting on well with people. Perhaps this is how he accomplishes it.

[redacted] brought up the following matter in such a persistent way that I could not help wondering just what his motives were. At a previous meeting with [redacted] almost a year earlier in Washington, he brought up the same matter in very much the same persistent way. So far no ready explanation has occurred to me for his persistence other than that he is keenly interested in the matter. After several drinks, he launched rather abruptly into the subject: (this quotation is accurate) "The Pont Saint Esprit 'secret' is that it was not the bread at all. For weeks the French kept our [redacted] laboratories with analyses of bread. It was not the bread, it was a diethylamide-like compound." He referred here of course to the well-known episode in France where a good many villagers were poisoned, so it was said, by ergot in the grain they used to make bread. I asked him why the material got to the people if it was not in the bread, he replied that we do not know." He reviewed what he said to me a year earlier in Washington that he thought the whole business was a learned experiment presumably by the French Government.

talked further about LSD. "We [ ] are still very much interested in LSD." He went on to say, "one small reason I am here [in the US] is to dispose of our LSD." He said "if war breaks out our LSD will disappear."

I asked him casually if anybody else in Europe was interested in separating out the ergot alkaloids. He said that they were being produced by the large pharmaceutical firm in .

I asked if he had any new agents he might like me to test. He said, "one of our principal interests is in searching for an LSD antidote. We have a brom-LSD compound. In the waltzing mice at least it checks the LSD's action. We do not yet know about its effect in man, as to whether it will act as an antidote to LSD." remarks on this subject were very interesting to me because of a conversation I had in in September 1953 with , a pharmacological associate I had asked the same question of him during our meeting and he stated that they had a new lysergic acid derivative but that it had not turned out well. obviously did not wish to talk about the subject. It is possible, however, that the brom-LSD compound mentioned by is the same as the one referred to so vaguely by .

Since our meeting in early December 1953 has returned to

It is interesting to speculate about the work of and his wife in the ergot field. is a very competent scientist and he and his wife originally used to collaborate on experiments on the ergot derivatives. His wife was formerly in love with a rather influential Communist in . This man, is, I believe, now dead but apparently his philosophy made a very deep impression on her and her present beliefs based on this former association have contributed I believe to the break-up of her marriage to who is certainly no Communist. It would be interesting to know whether or not wife has continued her Communist associations and also whether or not information on her husband's experiments have been passed on through any such associations.

-end-

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